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ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PLAN

The second annual review of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan continues the community's tradition of yearly examination and amendment to the blueprint for the future. The Plan states:

"Approximately one year following adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and on an annual basis thereafter, the Planning Director will prepare a report entitled the Annual Review of the Comprehensive Plan. Such report may include new and pertinent information about the community; changes in the Plan's underlying assumptions or any other factors affecting the health or welfare of the community. Such report may include specific proposals to amend the Plan."

This report and its review by the Planning Commission will be closely coordinated with the Commission's deliberations on the City of Lincoln's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the upcoming years." (Page F 157)

This is the second year that the review and public hearings on the Annual Review, CIP and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be held jointly. Fourteen separate amendment requests are included as part of this year's Annual Review. (Amendment #04010 at 66th and Highway 2 was submitted but is on hold at the applicant's request.) These amendments have been reviewed by various agencies since February. A few applications were revised as a result of additional discussion with the applicants. An open house was held on March 30th in order to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft applications. The open house was advertised in the Journal Star on March 28th.

Benchmark Indicators

In the section on the Annual Review, the Comprehensive Plan states:

"In order to monitor the progress in attaining several of the goals and base assumptions for the new Comprehensive Plan, a variety of information will need to be reviewed annually. This information will be obtained from various sources in order to look at a broad range of indicators. The goals and assumptions to be reviewed include items such as: multi-directional growth; 1.5% annual population growth; 2.0% annual commercial employment growth; 2.5% annual industrial employment growth; 90% of County population in Lincoln; increased funding for maintenance and; accelerated infrastructure improvements."

No single indicator, in a single year, provides clear evidence of significant variation from the goals and assumptions. Instead, many indicators should be used to determine any change after at least a three year period." (Page F 157)

This second year of data collection for the benchmark indicators. Overall the "Benchmark Indicators" report does not present any information to call for major changes in the Plan. As stated in the Plan, no conclusions can be made or trends determined based on two years of information. In many areas, there was limited information currently available to monitor progress. In future years, it is hoped that these benchmark indicators can be supplemented with additional information. No action is required on the indicators this year. In 2005, a greater analysis of the Benchmark Indicators report will be done as called for in the Plan.

Status of Projects Underway

April 28, 2004

Several studies and projects were noted as being a “work-in-progress” in last year’s annual review. The following is a brief update on the stats of these projects.

Acreage Policy Studies

The 2025 Plan called for three studies to be done to address “acreage” issues. These studies have been completed and additional work on implementation is underway as a result of the City-County Common meeting in April 2004.

Airport Authority Noise Study

Comprehensive Plan Amendment #04002 will have public hearing before the Planning Commission on April 28th, 2004. The Lincoln Airport Authority has completed a new F.A.R. Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study establishing new noise contours for the airport. The Comprehensive Plan amendment will reflect the new noise contours and changes in land use in the area south of the Airport. The Comp Plan amendment is accompanied by changes in the zoning ordinance to adopt the noise contours and change the airport noise regulations. The Lincoln Airport Authority is waiting for final Federal Aviation Administration approval.

Floodplain Task Force

Comprehensive Plan Amendment #04017 was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on March 31, 2004 and will be before the City Council and County Board in May. Revisions to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances and Design Standards are accompanying the Plan amendment.

Lincoln Public School Master Plan

Lincoln Public Schools facilities master plan is included in this year’s Annual Review as Comprehensive Plan Amendment #04003.

Infrastructure Financing

The Mayor’s Infrastructure Finance Committee completed their report on a proposed twelve year funding approach for financing public infrastructure improvements in May 2003. Their recommendations addressed capital facility needs for water, wastewater, streets and highways, stormwater, and parks. In January, 2004, Mayor Seng appointed the "Streets, Roads, and Trails (SRT) Committee." The purpose of this group is to continue the work of the previous Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Committee (MIFC.) The twenty member SRT Committee is charged by the Mayor with identifying additional funding options to meet Lincoln's streets, roads, and trails needs. The SRT Committee was asked to provide alternative ways to finance transportation improvements, The SRT Committee’s interim report is scheduled to be released on April 29, 2004.

North 48th Street/ University Place Subarea Plan

The draft subarea plan has been completed and Comprehensive Plan Amendment #04001 is scheduled for continued public hearing before the Planning Commission on May 12th, 2004.

NEW PROJECTS UNDERWAY

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Airport West Subarea Plan

The Planning Department will be undertaking a subarea plan (an area in the vicinity of NW 48th Street, West 'O' to Hwy 34), that may propose changes in land use and infrastructure and evaluate the City's Future Service Limit. The City will work with Lincoln Airport Authority, Lincoln Housing Authority and numerous other agencies. The review will include community input and provide numerous opportunities for citizens and property owners to evaluate the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Lincoln Public Schools, economic development groups and other public entities will also be involved in the subarea planning which is scheduled to begin in late May 2004.

Downtown Master Plan

In conjunction with the Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA), and the City's Urban Development Department, the Planning Department is about to embark upon the formulation of a "Downtown Master Plan." The purpose of this Master Plan study effort is to identify major land use and development policies for Downtown Lincoln. This includes delineating a number of land use activity zones and the interrelationships between each zone. The policies derived from this study are intended to support the role of the Downtown as set forth in the adopted City-County Comprehensive Plan. This planning process will include consideration of a range of Downtown area transportation issues including options for localized transit shuttle services and the potential for bikeway corridors within the Downtown area. Formal work on this study is anticipated to begin in May 2004. The planning effort will include a citizen committee to work with staff and the consulting team to oversee the preparation of the draft Master Plan.

Multi-Modal Transportation Plan

This study is looking for ways to expand alternative transportation mode opportunities that serve Lincoln's long range travel needs. The study is considering alternative approaches for providing personal transportation services, the service level characteristics of various modes, and funding options for maintaining such options. The study is also investigating the mobility requirements of demographic groups whose travel needs are not currently being met. The study will result in a plan for enhancing mobility options throughout the community and will be integrated into the City-County Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan. A citizen committee has been established to provide community input and review to the process. The study began in late July 2003, and is expected to be completed in June 2004.

Southwest Lincoln Subarea Plan

This study will identify and address future development issues that are responsive to the Southwest Lincoln area. Specific elements of the study include a review of alternative land use concepts and an evaluation of needs concerning infrastructure, community facilities and public services. The Subarea Plan is generally defined by a study boundary that encompasses an area west of U.S. Highway 77, south of West Van Dorn Street, north of Yankee Hill Road, and inclusive of land within the 2025 Comprehensive Plan future service limit. The subarea planning process is being managed by the City-County Planning Department, with assistance from the Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department and other city and county agencies. The subarea planning process is expected to be initiated in late 2004/early 2005, and will take approximately six to ten months to complete.

Stevens Creek Watershed Basin Planning Study

The Stevens Creek Watershed Basin Planning Study is a comprehensive evaluation that will develop
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long-term planning tools and improvement projects to address water quality, flood management, and stream stability to provide guidance for sustainable urban growth in the watershed. The public involvement component of the study is underway and offers multiple avenues for citizens to participate during the study, including Public Open Houses, a Questionnaire Survey, and a Citizen Advisory Committee. The multi-year project is anticipated to be completed in 2005 and will be forwarded as a subarea plan for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan.

Status of Previous Master Plans

REVIEW OF OLDER SUBAREA PLANS

The Plan Realization section of the Comprehensive Plan includes a list of subarea plans which are intended to “*offer greater details about the intended future of an area of the community — including land uses, infrastructure requirements, and development policies and standards.*” (Page F 156) Some of the plans were developed several years ago. The Plan states:

“As part of the Annual Plan Status Report process, the Planning Director should complete a yearly review of all subarea plans that become five years of age and older. This review would be for the purpose of determining the continued viability and relevance of those subareas plans to the Comprehensive Plan and the long range planning process.” (Page F 156)

The subarea plans that are older than five years old were reviewed, in consultation with other agencies and departments, and were determined to be still useful in terms of providing direction for future actions:

- Antelope Valley Major Investment Study: Amended Draft Single Package, City of Lincoln; May 1998, Updated November 1998.
- Investment Strategy for a Competitive Downtown, Leland Consulting Group; 1999.
- Stevens Creek Watershed Study and Flood Management Plan, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District; March 1998.

The Antelope Valley project is underway with the redevelopment plan and design standards for the area in process. As noted previously a new Downtown Master Plan and a Stevens Creek Watershed study are underway.

UPDATING OF PRIOR SUBAREA PLANS

The Plan also lists several subarea plans that are over 10 years old and were not included in the Comprehensive Plan due to the changing conditions or the need to update them. The Plan states:

“As part of the first Annual Review Status Report of this Plan, some of the older studies that are not included as part of this Plan but for which updating consideration might be given include: 1989 Lincoln Area Trails Master Plan (w/1992 Supplement entitled State of the Trails Report); 1992 Mo-Pac East Recreational Trail Master Plan; 1987 University Place Neighborhood Plan; 1987 Woods Park Neighborhood Plan; 1990 Downtown Housing Plan with 1994 Update; and, 1996 Downtown 2001: Heart of the City Plan.” (Page F 156)

The trails master plan is proposed for updating as part of Amendment #04004. As noted above, a new planning effort is underway for a portion of the University Place neighborhood, focused on the North 48th Street area as Comprehensive Plan Amendment #04001. Numerous planning efforts are underway regarding the Downtown area.

Status of Other Activities in the Plan

Throughout the Comprehensive Plan there are over 100 strategies or statements proposing additional studies or actions be taken in the future. Sometimes these actions come with specific deadlines of when they should be completed. Others are more open ended. There are numerous items to be addressed by many different departments and agencies. Two years since the Plan approval, some progress has been made in several different areas. However, many items are underway or have not yet been started. In working with various departments each of these items were identified along with the current status of each. These activities are listed in the table on the following pages.